

From: Stacy Destito

To: Behnam Ghaffari

Date: November 02, 2009

Subject: FCC File No. 0369-EX-PL-2009

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Message:

Itron typically validates both the RF characteristics and system loading at the same time in a field trial of new units and systems. It is very helpful for us to be able to load the system appropriately to get valid statistical results. Collection of RF characteristics is also complicated by the fact that our devices are typically fixed location units (tied to a utility meter) and as such do not achieve the spacial diversity that a mobile device would during a specific test period. There is a tradeoff in that a lower number of devices will require a longer test and/or the possibility of moving units during a test (expense to the utility and inconvenience to its customers). That stated, our typical test size is a few hundred units, however on occasion we do find the need to increase the quantities because of time constraints in data collection or customer desire to see a larger test population.

During the field tests Itron is responsible for the integrity of system operation and maintains full control of the system. The contractual bonds with our Utility partners describe the access allowed to Itron to the utilities meters, and other property needed to install, maintain, and remove the Itron equipment being tested. The contracts will also contain standard NDA agreements and describe what data is proprietary to the Utility (customer usage data for example) and what data is shared between the utility and Itron (system performance data).